



Burston Primary School

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Karen Millar
Head of School: Miss Sally Underwood

13th February 2026

Dear Parents,

As we reach the end of this short but busy half-term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the many wonderful opportunities and achievements that have taken place across Burston. The snow back in January certainly made our return after the holidays extra special, with lots of outdoor fun, laughter, and happy (but cold!) faces throughout the day.

January saw the launch of our **new school website**, where you can find up-to-date information, news, dates for the diaries, local events and important key documents:

👉 <https://www.burston-tivetshall-schools.co.uk/>

We hope you have had the opportunity to explore the site and enjoy the wonderful images that capture the 'Life of Burston'.

This half-term, we marked **Children's Mental Health Week**, focusing on the theme "*This Is My Place.*" Children explored what it means to belong, feel valued, and be comfortable being themselves. We celebrated inclusion, connection, and kindness, reinforcing how a sense of belonging supports confidence, wellbeing, and resilience.

We also took part in **Safer Internet Day**, using it as an opportunity to pause and reflect on staying safe online. This year's theme, "*Smart tech, safe choices – exploring the safe and responsible use of AI,*" helped children understand how to stay safe, treat others kindly online, and ask for help when needed. By introducing these ideas early, we support children to develop positive and responsible digital habits.

Our Key Stage 2 children have been enjoying their swimming sessions at Diss Pool, developing an important life skill. These sessions will continue on Thursdays after half-term. They also took part in a times tables competition against all other primary schools in the trust and came 1st place – a fantastic achievement!

In January, we were delighted to welcome our local MP, Adrian Ramsay, to school. Children asked thoughtful and insightful questions about government, local issues, climate change, and global events. Following the assembly, we visited the new Bug Hotel at Burston Park. As Oak Class have been learning about the different levels of government, it was wonderful to be joined by members of the Parish and County Councils for this visit.

Burston and Shimpling Parish Council Vice Chairman, Keith Cowley, and Norfolk County Councillor Dr Catherine Rowlett spoke to the children about the work being done to address speeding concerns in the local area. We are delighted that flashing speed signs have now been installed and are very

Crown Green, Burston, Diss, IP22 5TZ
01379 741 256

Email: Office@bps.set.education

Website: www.burston-tivetshall-schools.co.uk



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grateful to the Parish Council for listening to our children and acting so swiftly. It was a valuable experience that helped children see the positive impact they can have within their community. We were also pleased to welcome Bev from **The Shelf Community Food Hub** in Diss. Bev explained how the hub supports people in our community through kindness and care — values we share at Burston.

Thank you to all parents who attended our Willow and Oak Cafés and class assemblies. Your involvement in your children's learning is invaluable, and it was a pleasure to welcome you into school to share their work and celebrate their achievements.

We are delighted to share the successful appointment of new staff. Miss Mills will be joining Willow Class as their new Teaching Assistant. She brings a wealth of experience and will be a fantastic addition to our school team.

We are also delighted to share that we have successfully appointed a new full-time teacher for Willow Class, who will join us after Easter. Miss McDermott excelled in her interview and will be a wonderful addition to our team. We look forward to introducing you to her as she begins her transition alongside Mrs Grant.

Looking ahead to next half-term, Year 6 children will visit Stradbroke High School to watch the dress rehearsal of *Oliver*. We will also be celebrating **World Book Day on Friday 6th March**, with dressing up, reading activities, a book swap, and a 'Get Caught Reading' challenge.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We hope you all have a restful and enjoyable half-term break and look forward to welcoming the children back on **Monday 23rd February**.

Best wishes,

Miss Sally Underwood
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